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**LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER
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LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

July Red Meat Production

WEST VIRGINIA – Commercial red meat production during July 2005 totaled 200,000 pounds. This was down 11 percent from July 2004 and down 15 percent from June 2005 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 313,000 pounds live weight, down 5 percent from July 2004. Cattle slaughter totaled 300 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight, at 1,091 pounds, was up 41 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 109,000 pounds live weight, down 11 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 500 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight, at 232 pounds, was up 4 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

UNITED STATES -- Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.62 billion pounds in July, down 2 percent from the 3.71 billion pounds produced in July 2004.

Beef production, at 2.08 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.72 million head, down 2 percent from July 2004. The average live weight was up 15 pounds from the previous year, at 1,254 pounds.

Veal production totaled 12.4 million pounds, 7 percent below July a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 58,600 head, down 15 percent from July 2004. The average live weight was 26 pounds above last year, at 350 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.51 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.66 million head, 5 percent below July 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 264 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 13.5 million pounds, was down 5 percent from July 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 200,800 head, 9 percent below last year. The average live weight was 134 pounds, up 6 pounds from July a year ago.

January to July 2005 commercial red meat production was 25.9 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year, veal was down 8 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

July 2004 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. **July 2005** contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

CHICKENS & EGGS

July Egg Production Up Slightly

U.S. egg production totaled 7.56 billion during July 2005, up slightly from last year. Production included 6.44 billion table eggs, and 1.12 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.06 billion were broiler-type and 62 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during July 2005 averaged 340 million, down 1 percent from a year earlier. July egg production per 100 layers was 2,222 eggs, up 1 percent from July 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on August 1, 2005, totaled 340 million, down 1 percent from a year ago. The 340 million layers consisted of 282 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 55.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.63 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on August 1, 2005, averaged 71.0 eggs per 100 layers, same as a year ago.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Up 1 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during July 2005 totaled 35.3 million, up 1 percent from July 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 35.3 million on August 1, 2005, up 12 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks** for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 242,000 during July 2005, up 9 percent from July 2004.

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched Up Slightly

Broiler-type chicks hatched during July 2005 totaled 808 million, up slightly from July 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 663 million on July 1, 2005, down slightly from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.66 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during July 2005, down slightly from July 2004.

SEPTEMBER CROP PRODUCTION

United States

Corn production is forecast at 10.6 billion bushels, up 3 percent from last month but 10 percent below 2004. If realized, this would be the second largest crop on record. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 143.2 bushels per acre, up 4.0 bushels from August but 17.2 bushels below the record high last year. Forecast yields are down from the previous year in all Corn Belt States except Michigan and Wisconsin. Compared with last year, the largest yield decreases are expected in Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, and New Jersey. Farmers expect to harvest 74.3 million acres of corn for grain, down 50,000 acres from August but up 1 percent from 2004.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.86 billion bushels, up 2 percent from the August forecast but down 9 percent from the record crop of 2004. Based on September 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 39.6 bushels per acre, up 0.9 bushel from August. Adequate moisture across most of the Corn Belt and the Great Plains by the end of the month was a relief for many dry areas, including most of the drought-stricken areas of Illinois and Missouri. The Delta and Southeast also received favorable moisture, maintaining good yield potential in most areas, including a record high forecast in Louisiana and a record tying forecast in South Carolina.

TURKEYS RAISED

Turkeys Raised Down 3 Percent from 2004

The preliminary estimate of turkeys raised in the United States during 2005 is 256 million, down 3 percent from the number raised during 2004.

The following six States are expected to account for about two-thirds of the turkeys produced in the United States during 2005:

Minnesota, at 44.5 million birds, is expected to raise the largest number of any state, showing a 2 percent decrease from last year.

North Carolina ranks second with 36.0 million birds, down 8 percent from 2004.

Arkansas is in third place by producing 29.0 million birds, 2 percent more than a year ago.

Virginia, at 21.0 million birds is up 7 percent from 2004.

Missouri growers expect to produce 20.5 million birds in 2005, down 5 percent from the previous year.

California expects to raise 15.1 million turkeys, 4 percent less than a year earlier.

POULTRY SLAUGHTER

Ready-to-Cook Weight Down 3 Percent

Poultry certified wholesome during July 2005 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 3.29 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the amount certified in July 2004. Updated totals for June 2005 show that 3.61 billion pounds were certified.

The **preliminary** total live weight of poultry inspected during July 2005 was 4.42 billion pounds, down 3 percent from 4.55 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 3.79 billion pounds, down 2 percent from July 2004, and mature chickens at 68.6 million pounds, were down 3 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 545 million pounds, down 7 percent, and ducks totaled 14.2 million pounds, down 1 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during July 2005 averaged 5.27 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from July 2004. The average live weight of mature chickens was 5.84 pounds per bird, up 3 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during July 2005 averaged 27.6 pounds per bird, up 4 percent from July 2004.

Ante-mortem condemnations during July 2005 totaled 19.8 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.45 percent of the live weight inspected, compared to 0.48 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 42.4 million pounds (N.Y. dressed weight), were 1.07 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.22 percent a year earlier.

July 2005 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and five Saturdays. **July 2004** contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and five Saturdays.

US MUSHROOM PRODUCTION

All Mushroom Sales Virtually Unchanged, Value Down 1 Percent

Sales of the 2004-05 U.S. mushroom crop are 853 million pounds, virtually unchanged from the 2003-04 season but 1 percent above the 2002-03 season. Value of sales for the 2004-05 U.S. mushroom crop is \$908 million, down 1 percent from the previous season but 2 percent above the 2002-03 season. The number of growers, at 275, is down 3 from last season. The average price is \$1.06 per pound, down 2 cents from 2003-04.

Sales reported by growers of Agaricus mushrooms for fresh market are 696 million pounds, down 1 percent from last season. Sales of Agaricus mushrooms for processing are 142 million pounds, 3 percent above last season. Value of sales for all Agaricus mushrooms totaled 862 million dollars, down 2 percent from the previous season but 1 percent higher than 2002-03.

Agaricus mushroom sales totaled 838 million pounds, virtually unchanged from both the 2003-04 and 2002-03 seasons. Pennsylvania accounted for 59 percent of the total volume of sales and second ranked California contributed 14 percent. The value of the Agaricus crop was estimated at \$862 million, down 2 percent from the 2003-04 season. Brown mushrooms, including Portabello and Crimini varieties, accounted for 101 million pounds, up 4 percent from last season but 9 percent below the 2002-03 crop year. Brown mushrooms accounted for 12 percent of the total Agaricus volume sold. The brown mushroom crop value of sales for the 2004-05 season is \$130 million, 15 percent of the total Agaricus value.

The number of Agaricus growers in the U.S. totaled 118, down 7 from last season and 9 below two seasons ago. Growers with sales exceeding 10 million pounds accounted for 63 percent of U.S. Agaricus production, or 530 million pounds. The number of growers by sales categories are as follows:

- Over 20.0 million pounds, 11 growers;
- 10.0 million and 19.9 million pounds, 12 growers;
- 5.0 million to 9.9 million pounds, 26 growers;
- 2.5 million to 4.9 million pounds, 23 growers;
- 1.0 million to 2.4 million pounds, 20 growers;
- 0.5 million to 1.0 million pounds, 11 growers;
- less than 0.5 million pounds of sales, 15 growers.

The growing area is 28.9 million square feet, down 7 percent from the previous season and 5 percent below 2002-03. Total fillings are 143 million square feet, down 2 percent from last season but 1 percent above 2002-03. Yields averaged 5.86 pounds per square foot, up 2 percent from last season. Producers received an average return of \$6.03 per square foot, up 3 cents from last season but unchanged from the 2002-03 season. U.S. fresh market production at 696 million pounds is down 1 percent from the previous season, while processed production, at 142 million pounds, is 3 percent above the previous season. Growers reported U.S. fresh market production at 83 percent of total sales volume with processed production making up the remaining 17 percent. Growers total filling intentions for the 2005-06 crop are virtually unchanged from the 2004-05 crop.

Specialty Mushrooms - Shiitake, Oyster, and all Other Exotics-Value of sales for commercially grown specialty mushrooms in 2004-05 is \$46.1 million up 14 percent from the 2003-04 season. A specialty grower is defined as having at least 200 natural wood logs in

production or some commercial indoor growing area. The average price per pound received by growers, at \$3.06, is up 3 cents from the previous season.

Sales of Shiitake mushrooms totaled 8.61 million pounds for the 2004-05 season, up 15 percent from the previous season. Price per pound received by growers, at \$3.21, is down 3 cents from 2003-04. Sales volume of Oyster mushrooms, at 5.11 million pounds, is up 22 percent from the previous season. Price per pound received by growers, at \$2.33, is up 25 cents from the previous season. Sales of exotic mushrooms, other than Shiitake or Oyster, are 1.33 million pounds, down 20 percent from last season. Price per pound received by growers, at \$4.90, is up 41 cents from 2003-04.

Certified Organic Agaricus and Specialty Mushrooms-Growers sold 35.0 million pounds of mushrooms that were certified organic during the 2004-05 growing season, down 1 percent from 2003-04. Out of the 35.0 million pounds, 6.01 million pounds, or 17 percent of the total were sold as certified organic mushrooms, while the rest were sold without the certified organic label. This compares to 8.31 million pounds, or 23 percent sold as certified organic during the 2003-04 crop year. Agaricus mushrooms accounted for 74 percent of the mushrooms sold as certified organic, while all specialty mushrooms made up the remainder. These certified organic sales represent 1 percent of the 2004-05 total mushroom sales. The number of certified organic mushroom growers totaled 35, up 4 from the previous season. These growers represent 13 percent of the 275 total mushroom producers.

CATTLE ON FEED

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 2 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.1 million head on August 1, 2005. The inventory was 2 percent above August 1, 2004 and 5 percent above August 1, 2003.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.68 million, 2 percent below 2004 and 16 percent below 2003. This is the lowest placements for the month of July since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.62 million. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 400,000, 600-699 pounds were 338,000, 700-799 pounds were 465,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 475,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 1.92 million, slightly below 2004 and 16 percent below 2003. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of July since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 60,000 during July, 3 percent above 2004 but unchanged from 2003.

FARM LABOR

HIRED WORKERS UP 2 PERCENT, WAGE RATES UP 4 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

There were 1,332,000 hired workers on the Nations farms and ranches during the week of July 10-16, 2005, up 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 930,000 workers were directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 402,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.39 per hour during the July 2005 reference week, up 35 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.62 per hour, up 28 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$9.25 per hour compared with \$8.74 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.78 per hour, was up 35 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.6 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 4 percent from a year ago.

The largest decreases in the number of hired farm workers from last year occurred in California, and in the Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), and Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming) regions. In California, the cool, wet spring caused considerable delays in planting and slowed development of most field and vegetable crops. The slow start to the growing season continued to keep crop progress behind normal through early July, reducing the need for hired workers. Moderate to heavy rainfall from Hurricane Dennis hampered fieldwork in both Appalachian regions, greatly decreasing the demand for hired workers. In the Delta region, the hot, dry weather in Arkansas was more than offset by the rain and wet conditions in Louisiana and Mississippi, causing the overall demand for workers in the region to decline. In the Southern Plains region, season-long dry conditions over much of Texas severely curtailed hay growth and production. With less hay acreage for harvest, fewer workers were needed. The cool, wet spring in the Mountain I region delayed crop development. Field activities that normally would have been ongoing during the reference week were pushed back due to the slow growth. Therefore, hired worker demand was lower.

The largest increases in the number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri), Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota), and Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio) regions. Persistent dryness in the Corn Belt II region caused pasture condition to deteriorate, necessitating more supplemental feeding and increasing the need for livestock workers. The dry conditions led to greater insect pressure on developing crops, resulting in more pesticide applications, which also raised the demand for hired workers. Warm, dry weather in the Lake and Northern Plains regions allowed field activities to progress rapidly, causing more hired workers to be needed. Despite hurricane moisture in the eastern half of the Corn Belt I region, dry conditions quickly returned, causing increased insect pressure in corn and soybeans. Therefore, more workers were needed for pesticide spraying.

Hired farm worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania), Corn Belt II, Southern Plains, Mountain I, and Appalachian II regions. The higher wages in the Northeast II region were due to a smaller percentage of part time workers in the work force. In the Corn Belt II region, wages were up due to a higher percentage of skilled workers needed for crop spraying. Wages in the Southern Plains, Mountain I, and Appalachian II regions were higher because of more salaried workers putting in fewer hours, which pushed their hourly wage higher. Also, the Southern Plains and Appalachian II regions had fewer part time workers as a percent of the total.

**Livestock Slaughter
Chicken & Eggs
October Crop Production
Milk Production
Small Grains- Annual Summary
Agricultural Chemical Usage
September Survey Results**

DALE R. KING, DIRECTOR

**United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
West Virginia Department of Agriculture
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305**

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GUS R. DOUGLASS, COMMISSIONER